

**The Connecticut EMS Advisory Board
Emergency Preparedness Committee
MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2016
New Britain EMS**

Present: William Ackley – Committee Chair, Judi Reynolds – DPH/OEMS, Carmine Centrella – CR-MMRS, John Oates – East Hartford FD, Mark Franzese - Campion

Go To Meeting/

Call in : Art Groux – Suffield EMS, Brian Cournoyer - CHA, Joe Laucella - Trumbull, Bill Rochette – CSP, Alex Morisano – NBEMS, Jonathan Lillpopp – DPH/OEMS, Shea Gregg MD - Bridgeport

1.0 Call to order

Chair Bill Ackley called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM at New Britain EMS Headquarters. Introductions were done and persons calling in were acknowledged.

2.0 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the May 2016 meeting were distributed. Carmine Centrella motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Mark Franzese seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

3.0 Initiatives for discussion

- **Update Preparedness/Jonathan Best**

Jon Best reported there is a high level of activity concerning the Zika virus, a grant has been received from CDC for \$320,000 designated for Zika.

Jon Best reported he attended the Interstate Task Force meeting in Stamford along with members of his staff and was very impressed. The concept of having a bus similar to the ones in the Tri-State task force, which could be utilized as part of the mobile field hospital, is being discussed. The addition of this type of asset would increase first strike capabilities. There could be multiple uses for this type of asset.

The Mass Fatality exercise is currently in the final planning stages, Jon Best will be seeking assistance for specific areas. He reviewed the daily schedule which will include; day one - scene management and evidence collection, day two - mortuary operations (DMORT) and day three - family assistance centers and behavioral health. This will be a full scale exercise. The scenario will be a concentrated coordinated attack that will include an incident at a sports arena and a subsequent incident on a Metro North train. The exercise will begin two days into the incident, there will be no live casualties. The exercise is a cooperative operation with participation from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and two counties in Pennsylvania.

Jon Best reported OPHPR had a booth at the CT EMS EXPO which was well attended, a substantial amount of informational materials were distributed and plans are to have the same size booth at next year's EXPO. OPHPR is in discussions about sponsoring the Preparedness track at next year's event and he will be soliciting ideas from this committee on what should be included in the track.

Bill Ackley is coordinating with his contacts in Boston concerning the Paris group that spoke in Boston on the Paris attacks about holding a symposium in Region 1. If the dates fall close to the Mass Fatality Exercise he would like to coordinate the group observing the exercise and possibly participating in a working lunch. There may also be an opportunity to have representatives from Belgium attend.

- **Update OEMS/Richard Kamin MD**

Dr. Kamin was unable to participate today.

- **Update OEMS/Coordinator**

Judi Reynolds reported John Spencer's last day at OEMS is today, his regional duties have not been reassigned as yet. The EMR, EMR-R and EMT-R tests are ready for printing, quotes are being obtained, hoping to move forward very soon. Certifications are taking longer to process due to the increase in classes at this time of year, please have patience and plan your recertification with enough lead time to allow for processing.

- **Trailer Sub-committee report**

Bill Ackley asked Jon Best if there has been any consideration about expanding the scope of the trailers. At this time there is not, the priority at this time is relocation of several trailers because some of the host services can no longer house them. Jon Best is looking at waiving the indoor housing requirement. Charles Mullins and Bill Gerrish will be inventorying the contents of the trailers over the next few months.

- **Active Assailant**

Bill forwarded a copy of the Active Assailant Guidelines – version 5 to the group for review and input. Chief Oates has completed his edits and Bill Ackley expressed his appreciation of Chief Oates assistance. Carmine Centrella suggested adding Local Public Health as a bullet point under stakeholders. Discussion followed on family assistance center planning. Bill would like input and commentary sent to him within the next few days. Once he receives everyone's final input he would like to meet with Greg Allard, Dr. Kamin and a few others to plan outreach to other groups. Discussion followed on the groups that should be included in the outreach. Chief Oates will write the Executive Summary once all commentary is submitted.

The value of an After Action Report (AAR) and its inclusion in the guidelines was discussed. Mark Franzese suggested including a template with instructions to help facilitate the process in the appendix, consensus was positive. Discussion followed on including first responder mental health trauma screening, inclusion of a disclaimer that this type of screening should be done in accordance with local risk management policies was suggested.

Bill Ackley asked that all commentary be submitted to him by July 15th. He thanked everyone for their work on the document.

- **Mass Gatherings**

At the last meeting the group decided the next section of the EMS Preparedness Guidelines to be worked on would be EMS Mass Gathering Plans & Requirements. Discussion followed on several documents including one issued by Len Guercia in 2007. The last updates to statutes was in 1971 and the thresholds included are not realistic, the importance of updating the mass gathering legislation and how to accomplish that were briefly discussed. Discussion followed on multiple situations/events that present risks and do not meet current thresholds for mass gatherings. The members of the group shared information on how each of them plan for mass gatherings in their communities and the issues they have encountered. Bill Ackley will forward documents for the group to review prior to the next meeting.

- **Other**

- Bill Ackley reported that in May; Police, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management from all 14 towns in Region 1 came together for an active assailant symposium. He reviewed the day's activities and discussion facilitated at the symposium. He feels it opened dialogue and was a successful day. Discussion followed on triage.

4.0 Events/Exercises

- **CT EMS EXPO** - was held at Mohegan Sun June 1st through June 4th. Bill Ackley has had a lot of positive feedback and feels it was a great success.
- **New England Fire Chief's Show** – was held at Foxwoods. Chief Oates reported it was well attended and offered multiple quality education sessions. Chief Oates feels it was a great transitional effort and a success.
- **TECC** – Bill Ackley reported that Region 1 hosted a NAEMT TECC program in June. The program was exceptional and was taught by Rockland New York Paramedics. Bill reviewed the course content, the location and cost. There was discussion on programs that require less time and may be a better fit for some services. Feedback has been very positive.
- **NY/NJ/CT Interstate EMS Task Force Quarterly Meeting** – The quarterly meeting was held at Stamford EMS on June 16th. There were representatives from FDNY, Yonkers, Nassau County and New Jersey. Nassau County and Yonkers brought their multi patient transport units, Region 1 MCV was there. Bill Ackley thanked Carmine Centrella's group for providing lunch.
- **When Terror Strikes Symposium** – Bill reported funding has been secured through REPT 1 to host the "When Terror Strikes" symposium to be held tentatively the last week in October.
- **Mass Fatality Exercise** - October 24th through 28th, 2016.

5.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:10AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judi Reynolds

OEMS Region 2 Coordinator